

Reconsideration of this application in light of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT: The above-identified application is subject to a restriction requirement as between:

Group I: Claims 1-14, drawn to a flexible circuit board, classified in Class 174, subclass 254; and

Group II: Claims 15-20, drawn to a method for forming a flexible circuit board, classified in Class 264, subclass 142,

on the grounds that Inventions I and II are related as product made and process of making, and are distinct if it can be shown that: (1) the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product, and (2) the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process.

Applicants herewith affirm our non-provisionally election to prosecute the Group 1 claims (1-14), without traverse, as made during a telephone conversation on November 03, 2004 with Examiner Lam.

Claims 15-20 are drawn to a non-elected invention and have been withdrawn, without prejudice.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-14 have been rejected.

Claims 2-3 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1, 4 and 10 have been amended.

Formal Matters

Claims 4 and 10 were objected to for not spelling out the term "FR4".

Claims 4 and 10 have been amended to specify that FR4 material is a fiberglass-weave epoxy. Support for this can be found in the specification on page 1 line 34 to page 2 line 1.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, "bending region" is structurally indefinite, and "uncut layers" have no antecedent basis. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 has been amended to clarify that the bending region structure is the structure between the first and second portions of the circuit board. In addition, "an uncut layer" is newly introduced in this claim, and has been amended accordingly.

Substantive Matters

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claims 3 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all the recitations of claim 3 and intervening claim 2, subsequently canceled. For the foregoing reason, claim 1 is now deemed allowable. Claim 3 has also been incorporated into independent claim 10, inasmuch as the language of claim 2 is already present therein, and claim 11 is only a more limiting case of claim 3. Therefore, claim 10 is now deemed allowable.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the above rejection.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Walles et al. (US 5925298). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 10 have been amended into a condition for allowance as detailed above.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claims 4-7 and 9 are dependent on newly amended claim 1 and applicants' above comments with respect to claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. Therefore, claims 4-7 and 9 are deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Claims 12 and 14 are dependent on newly amended claim 10 and applicants' above comments with respect to claim 10 are hereby incorporated by reference. Therefore, claims 12 and 14 are deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the above rejection.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 103(a) as obvious over Walles et al. (US 5925298). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 10 have been amended into a condition for allowance as detailed above.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claims 4-7 and 9 are dependent on newly amended claim 1 and applicants' above comments with respect to claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. Therefore, claims 4-7 and 9 are deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Claims 12 and 14 are dependent on newly amended claim 10 and applicants' above comments with respect to claim 10 are hereby incorporated by reference. Therefore, claims 12 and 14 are deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the above rejection.

The other references of record have been reviewed and applicant's invention is deemed patentably distinct and nonobvious over each taken alone or in combination.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that the above objection rejections be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as this amendment distinguishes all of the applicants' claims over the prior art references, for the many reasons indicated above, passing of this case is now believed to be in order. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

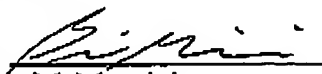
No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection or through an Examiner's amendment.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein to Deposit Account 50-2117.

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Respectfully submitted,
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